

# ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

EST. 1822 ~ FIRST CATHOLIC PARISH IN TORONTO

## STAFF

**Fr. Robert O'Brien**  
Pastor

**Delmalisa Chilombo**  
Sacristan

**Ben Richards**  
Sacristan

**Micah MacMullen**  
Youth Minister

**Fr. Keith Wallace**  
In Residence

**Lynett Wilson**  
Office Manager

**Jason Lo**  
Bookkeeper

**Ives Alvarez**  
Custodian

**Joseph Angelo**  
Music Director

**Allison Angelo**  
Cantor

**Andrea Cerswell**  
11 am Choir Lead

## MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Monday: No Mass ♦ Tuesday to Friday: 5:00 pm

## CONFESIONS

Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm or by appointment

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

## CONTACT

83 Power Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8 | ☎ (416) 364-7588  
✉ stpaulsbasilica@archtoronto.org | 🌐 stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org

## SACRAMENTS

Please contact the parish office for more information on preparing for and receiving a Sacrament at St. Paul's Basilica.

- ♦ Baptism; Two months in advance
- ♦ Marriage; Registered parishioners at least one year in advance
- ♦ First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA;  
Registration takes place in the autumn
- ♦ Anointing of the sick & Communion to the sick and shut-ins;  
Please call during office hours

## DONATION OPTIONS

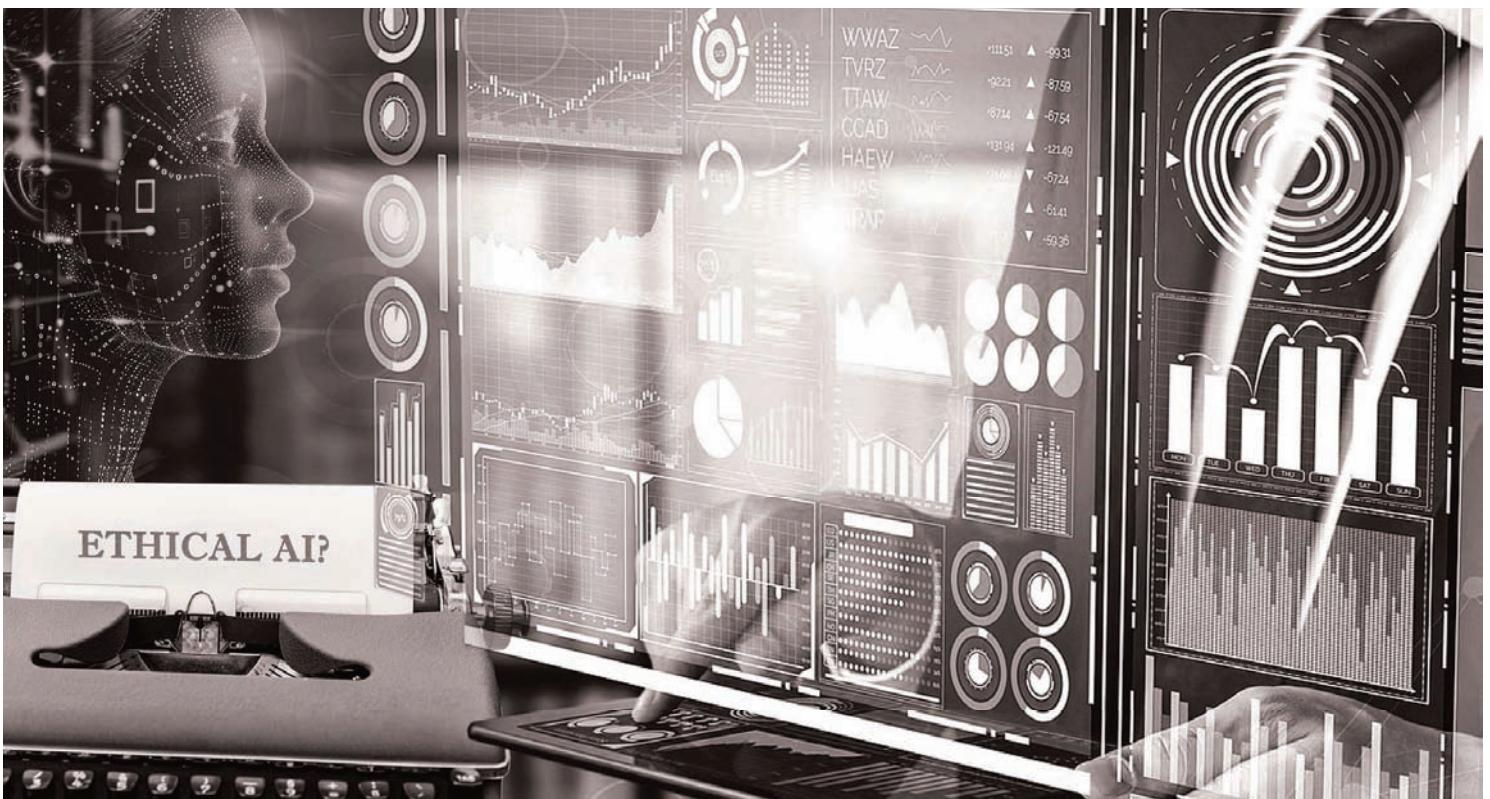
To begin donating via Weekly Offertory Envelopes or Pre-Authorized Monthly Direct Debit, please contact the parish office.

To donate by Credit Card, visit our website or use the Tip Tap Device located near the main entrance. To receive a tax receipt please register your card after your first tap. Information is available near device.

## ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Alyson Sobol, Principal ♦ Tel: (416) 393-5204

## ❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### A Few Thoughts on AI

The AI revolution is accelerating. While the rapid growth of artificial intelligence presents many positive opportunities, the lack of shared agreement about its ethical, legal, and even moral use is concerning. At its core, AI is the product of increased computing power: we can process more data, store more information, and connect it in increasingly sophisticated ways. As in many other industries that shape and provide us with the trappings of the modern life, these advances are largely controlled by a relatively small number of powerful players.

AI displays two seemingly contrasting approaches. On one hand, it offers remarkable precision in specialized fields with its ability to analyze vast datasets. Medical research, for example, is poised to benefit greatly. Cancer treatments may become more personalized, with genetic patient information guiding the manufacturing of medicines and accelerating discoveries. On the other hand, AI is also quite adept at providing generalized information. I find it useful to gain a basic understanding, or a summary of prevailing views and key facts on unfamiliar topics—though this requires careful attention to sources and credibility.

There is a line in an old and quite dated 19th-century Gilbert and Sullivan operetta: “I always voted at my party’s call, and I never thought of thinking for myself at all.” The character, who purchased his seat in Parliament and is lazy and negligent in performing his responsibilities, is made a cabinet minister as a reward. It is not hard to see echoes of these 1884 today. Those who choose use AI uncritically, or without a moral compass, may well be rewarded in our society.

We already know that “smart” technologies are used to collect and exploit personal data. It is reasonable to ask whether we are shaping machines—or allowing machines to shape us. Only within a moral, ethical, and responsible legal framework can we truly claim to be using these powerful tools, rather than being used by them.

It may be beneficial to think of AI as “simulated” intelligence rather than true intelligence. My father worked as an actuary, a scientific profession which analyzes probabilities. Similarly, AI operates by identifying patterns and likelihoods on a vast scale. Its algorithms—mathematical formulae—are not morally accountable, and their inner workings are, out of necessity, closely guarded and hidden from public view by the companies responsible for the technology. AI can provide information that, on the balance of probabilities, is statistically plausible and often useful—but if we grant it authority or credit it as being more knowledgeable than ourselves without critical evaluation and reflection, we risk surrendering part of our moral agency.

I realize this is an unlikely and complex topic for a bulletin article, however it is important. As AI becomes more deeply woven into daily life, we should take note of the positive benefits along with the negative dangers and take the steps needed to ensure AI remains at the service of humanity so that we continue to act as moral persons with voices in the wider society.

In Christ,

*Fr. Bob*

# ❖ NEWS

## Weekly Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 7

4:30 pm ♦ † Rose Yeung

### Sunday, February 8

8:30 am ♦ For the People

11:00 am ♦ Oluwatelayo Ethan Emeruem

### Tuesday, February 10

5:00 pm ♦ † Dorothy Theresa Murphy

### Wednesday, February 11

5:00 pm ♦ † Noreen Whelan

### Thursday, February 12

5:00 pm ♦ Vincent Deronja

### Friday, February 13

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

## Parish Collection Summary

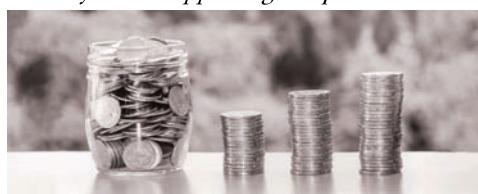
	2026	2025	Diff
Feb 1	\$ 4,126	\$ 4,487	-\$ 361
Feb 8		\$ 3,455	
Feb 15*		\$ 5,995	
Feb 22		\$ 2,405	
Mth Totals	\$ 4,126	\$ 16,342	-\$ 12,216

\*Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

### Upcoming Special Collections

- **March 1** - Preservation Fund
- **March 22** - ShareLife

Thank you for supporting our parish!



## Cashless Donations

With fewer people using cheques or cash, we are pleased to offer several convenient ways to donate:



**Online:** Scan the QR or visit [stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org](http://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org) and select the Donate button. Ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica" is selected from the parish drop-down menu.

**TipTap:** Tap your card against an amount on the device at the back of the church to make a donation. For a year-end tax receipt, register your physical card by scanning the QR code beside the TipTap device.



## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th

*Mass on February 18, 2026 at 5 pm & 6 pm*



Lent is a special time of spiritual renewal in the Church which begins on Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, February 18, the parish will celebrate two Masses, at 5 pm and 6 pm, for the distribution of Ashes. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed Friday evenings after 5 pm Mass.

## Fr. Bob's on Vacation

Fr. Bob will be away on vacation until February 12. During this time Fr. Michael Lehman and Fr. Philip Gonsalves, OFM Cap, will be celebrating the parish Masses. For sacramental (baptism, marriage etc.) inquiries please contact the parish office after Fr. Bob's return.



## Silent Women's and Men's Retreat Weekends

*Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, Pickering, ON*

### Women's Ignatian Retreat: An Experience of Sacred Earth - March 13 - 15, 2026

Discover the rich ecological dimension of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius through prayer, reflection, and contemplation of God as loving Creator and the ever-present Christ as they call for an environmental conversion in this time of global crisis. Together participants will be invited to deepen their relationship with God, one another, and the Earth, in a spirit of trust, gratitude, and joy. All are welcome.

### Men's Ignatian Retreat: Soul-Making by Grace - March 20 - 22, 2026

Explore a renewed and hope-filled understanding of purgatory as a place not only of purification, but of growth and healing through God's grace. Through talks, prayer, and reflection, participants will be invited to recognize how God is at work in the ordinary—and sometimes difficult—experiences of daily life, drawing us into deeper awareness of divine love and a more generous response to it.

These SILENT retreat begin Friday evening and run to Sunday with lunch. The suggested offering is \$280 per person which includes two nights' accommodation, meals, spiritual direction and retreat program. For more information or to register visit [manresa-canada.ca](http://manresa-canada.ca).

## Kindergarten Registration!



Families with children born in 2022 can now apply for Junior Kindergarten at St. Paul's School this September. Visit [tcdsb.org/kindergarten](http://tcdsb.org/kindergarten) or scan the QR for info.



## Lift Jesus Higher Rally

*March 14, 2026 from 9 am to 5:30 pm; Metro Toronto Convention Centre*

Lift Jesus Higher Rally is an annual rally that focuses on evangelizing through uplifting music, testimonials, reflections, Divine Mercy celebration and Eucharistic Adoration. The Adult Rally features several inspirational speakers and for those between 13 and 18, the Youth Rally will be supercharged through great music, inspiring skits, fabulous testimonies and talks. Attendees will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Mass. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [ljh.ca](http://ljh.ca).

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